

**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL:
DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

**ACTION
Agenda Item F-1-c
September 18, 2000**

Recommendation:

- That the Council accept the *Memorandum of Understanding* from the University of Kentucky related to the cooperative implementation and advancement of the Kentucky School of Public Health with the University of Louisville.
- That the Doctor of Public Health proposed by the University of Kentucky be approved and registered in CIP 51.2201 (Public Health, General) with the understanding that continued approval depends on fulfillment of the obligations defined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Rationale:

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) would prepare graduates for careers as senior level administrators, applied researchers, policy makers, and educators. Kentucky's population continues to be categorized "high risk" across most health measures. The proposed program would produce graduates who would provide leadership in protecting and improving the health of Kentuckians. This proposed program is consistent with the mission and goals of the University of Kentucky.

In November 1999, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville agreed to create the Kentucky School of Public Health. Under the agreement, the University of Louisville will focus on training health professionals for careers in research. The University of Kentucky will focus on professional degree programs emphasizing the practice of public health. The proposed program fits within this division of labor.

The agreement also assigns responsibility for the accreditation of the Kentucky School of Public Health to the University of Kentucky. The University of Louisville is responsible for accreditation of its own programs. The approval of the DrPH is critical to the accreditation of the Kentucky School of Public Health by the University of Kentucky.

Extended discussions with the Council on Education in Public Health (the national accrediting body for public health programs) made clear that accreditation of schools and programs requires accredited programs to be accountable to a single governing board. The University of Kentucky's public health programs will be accredited through the school, reporting to the UK Board of Trustees. The University of Louisville will seek separate accreditation for its public health programs, which would be closely affiliated with the Kentucky School, but would be ultimately responsible to the University of Louisville Board of Trustees.

Within this accreditation structure, UK has committed, through the attached *Memorandum of Understanding*, to work the University of Louisville in all aspects, including joint faculty appointments, publications, student instruction, and distance learning. Also, consistent with the agreement, a member of the University of Louisville faculty is expected to be appointed Associate Director of the Kentucky School of Public Health at the September meeting of the UK Board of Trustees. UK also has committed to continuing its ongoing collaboration with the University of Louisville in public service and research.

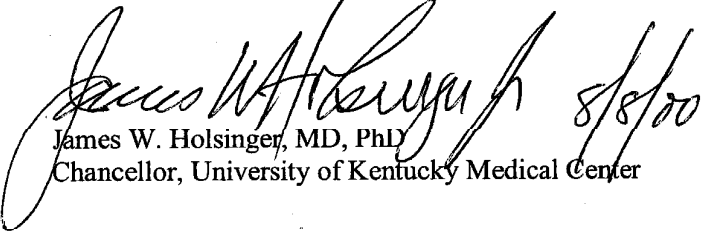
To ensure maximum cooperation and avoid unnecessary duplication, faculty and administrators from the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville meet regularly with representatives of Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, and Western Kentucky University. For example, the five institutions have plans to share in the delivery of public health courses, notably through the Kentucky Virtual University. They are finalizing a “Proposal to Create a Statewide Distance Learning Public Health Consortium” and anticipate submitting the program to the Kentucky Virtual University for approval and support in fall 2000.

Staff Preparation by Jim Applegate and Bill Swinford

Memorandum of Understanding

In order to implement fully the conditions in the agreement between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville for cooperative Public Health Programs, the University of Kentucky's administration and faculty will carry out the following actions:

1. Dr. Paul McKinney will be recommended to the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees for appointment as Associate Director of the Kentucky School of Public Health at the September 2000 Board meeting.
2. Dr. James Holsinger will request the University of Louisville to nominate faculty for joint appointment to the Kentucky School of Public Health. We anticipate the first cohort to be appointed by or before the January University of Kentucky Board of Trustees meeting.
3. The University of Kentucky will support the University of Louisville's efforts to secure accreditation for its graduate program in public health through the Council on Education in Public Health.
4. All current and future material promoting the Kentucky School of Public Health will identify the University of Louisville's participation in the School and the public health programs at the University of Louisville. All drafts of promotional material and publications of the School will be submitted for review to the University of Louisville.
5. By Fall 2001, the University of Kentucky will have a mechanism in place for students to be jointly admitted to the Kentucky School of Public Health for the purpose of obtaining the core courses of the MPH degree regardless of where they will obtain a public health degree. Appropriate DrPH courses at the University of Kentucky will be available to all doctoral students at both institutions.
6. The University of Kentucky will encourage students in the Kentucky School of Public Health to take courses at the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky as appropriate to their program of study.
7. By Fall of 2001, the University of Kentucky will have a mechanism in place to allow students to count up to 15 units of coursework (the MPH core) obtained through the web at KCVU or at the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, or Eastern Kentucky University.
8. The faculty and staff of the public health programs at the University of Kentucky will actively participate in joint service and research programs with the University of Louisville. Examples of existing collaborative efforts include the epidemiological investigations of the Paducah nuclear plant, the Kentucky Injury Prevention Research Center, and the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute.
9. As accreditation is sought for the Kentucky School of Public Health through the University of Kentucky, the University of Kentucky will actively seek full involvement of the faculty of the University of Louisville who hold academic and/or administrative appointments in the Kentucky School of Public Health.


James W. Holsinger, MD, PhD
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